

LAKEWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gordon A. Bowers



Chief of Police

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

On behalf of Lakeway Police Department, I am writing to ask that you submit an FY10 appropriations request of \$1.3 million in support of the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program through the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

ALERRT is a program designed to train first responders with tactics they will need to effectively respond to active shooter situations. The funding requested will enable ALERRT to provide training to agencies including Lakeway Police Department. The program enables officers that have successfully completed ALERRT's "Train-the-Trainer" course to train fellow officers at their home agencies, providing an efficient and cost-effective manner to increase the number of officers with these life-saving skills.

Over the past fifteen years, the United States has seen a significant increase in the number of murder-suicide shootings around the country, such as the ones that occurred at Virginia Tech in 2007 and Columbine High School in Littleton, CO in 1999. Each year we learn of similar events across the nation with equally tragic results.

Unfortunately, many of our nation's police officers are unprepared to respond to an event involving an active shooter. ALERRT provides first responders with the tactics they will need to effectively respond to active shooter situations. The tactics that are taught are based upon lessons learned from historical homicidal/suicidal acts of violence. Feedback obtained from participants overwhelmingly indicates that officers feel safer, better trained to handle violent crimes and are making their communities safer.

Currently, there are 423 requests pending for ALERRT training. Additional funding for ALERRT would enable the program to train more patrol officers, including our department, and thereby improve the safety of our community.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Lakeway Police Department and we encourage you to support this critical funding for ALERRT. For more information about ALERRT, please refer to ALERRT's website, www.alerrt.com, or contact Don Montague, ALERRT's Executive Director, (512) 245-1552 or montague@alerrt.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Radford".

Todd Radford
Lieutenant

"We Commit to Unsurpassed Public Safety and Service"